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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC-04574/86  
3 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

FROM:

Acting National Intelligence Officer for Europe

Fritz W. Ermarth

National Intelligence Officer for the USSR

SUBJECT: Interagency Meeting on Soviet Policy Toward  
Eastern Europe

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1. In lieu of the NIO/USSR and NIO/EUR October warning and forecast meetings, we propose a joint session devoted to Soviet policy toward Eastern Europe under Gorbachev. We will meet in NIC conference room 7E62 from 10:25 - 12:00 on 22 October.

2. Presentations and discussion should be forward-looking, seeking to forecast likely future scenarios rather than sum up current trends. We should address not only Soviet aims and tactics but also East European realities -- which may upset any Soviet grand design or compel the Soviets to react to incipient crises. Presentations should be limited to five minutes each to allow ample time for discussion.

3. We suggest the following agenda:

10:25 - 10:35: Introduction. (NIO/USSR, NIO/EUR)

10:35 - 10:55: Soviet Approaches and Objectives. (INR)

How does the Gorbachev leadership view Eastern Europe? How does Eastern Europe fit in to broader Soviet aims in Western Europe? How are East European realities likely to affect Soviet aspirations?

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10:55 - 11:15: Soviet Approaches to Succession Issues. (SOVA)

How directly and actively will the Soviet leadership intervene in East European successions? What are the prospects for crisis? What does past Soviet practice, as well as the more recent handling of Chernobyl and the Daniloff affair, tell us about Soviet crisis management?

11:15 - 11:35: Economic and Foreign Trade Issues. (EURA)

What does the USSR expect from its allies economically, and what can the East Europeans deliver? What are Soviet/East European attitudes (and likely policies) on debt repayment, trade with the West, domestic reform, and CEMA integration? What is the East European economic outlook?

11:35 - 11:55: Foreign and Security Policy. (DIA)

How successfully has Gorbachev strengthened Soviet authority over Warsaw Pact approaches to the West? What security policy issues -- such as defense spending -- are likely to come to the fore?

11:55: Wrapup. (A/NIO/EUR)

4. Please have your clearances certified (Attn: NIC Admin/POC: ) and call our office  with your attendance plans by COB Monday, 20 October 1986.

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